

CLAIMS

We claim:

1 1. A method in a wearable computer for providing information about a
2 current state of a user of the wearable computer, the current state modeled with multiple
3 state attributes, the wearable computer executing a plurality of state server modules to
4 supply values for the state attributes, executing a plurality of state client modules to
5 receive and process values for the state attributes, and executing an intermediary module
6 to facilitate exchange of state attribute values, the method comprising:

7 under control of each of the executing state server modules, sending to the
8 intermediary module a registration message indicating a current availability to supply
9 values for an indicated one of the state attributes;

10 under control of a first of the executing state client modules, sending to the
11 intermediary module a request for a current value of a first of the state attributes; and

12 under control of the intermediary module,
13 receiving the sent registration messages and the sent request; and
14 without further intervention by the first state client module,
15 determining that the first state attribute is not one of the state
16 attributes indicated by the state server modules;

17 sending to the first state client module an indication that the
18 requested value is not available;

19 after the sending of the indication, receiving an indication from a
20 first state server module of an ability to supply values for the first state attribute; and

21 in response to the receiving of the indication, notifying the first
22 state client module that the requested value is available,
23 so that the state client modules can automatically be notified when state attribute values
24 of interest become available.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the received indication from the first state server module includes a value for the first state attribute, and wherein the notifying of the first state client module includes sending the received value to the first state client module.

3. The method of claim 1 including, under the control of the intermediary module:

receiving from a second of the state client modules a request for a current value of a second state attribute that was indicated in the registration message sent by a second of the state server modules; and

without further intervention by the second state client, determining that the second state server module is not currently able to supply the requested current value for the second state attribute;

in response to the determining, sending to the second state client module an indication that the requested current value for the second state attribute is not available;

after the sending of the indication to the second state client module, determining that the second state server module is currently able to supply the requested current value for the second state attribute; and

notifying the second state client module that the requested current value for the second state attribute is available.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the determining that the second state server module is currently able to supply the requested current value for the second state attribute is based on the intermediary module receiving a current value for the second state attribute from the second state server module, and wherein the notifying of the second state client module includes sending the received value for the second state attribute to the second state client module.

1 5. The method of claim 1 including, under the control of the
2 intermediary module:
3 receiving from each of multiple modules an indication of an event of
4 interest; and
5 when one of the indicated events of interest occurs, notifying the module
6 that indicated the occurring event of the occurrence.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein a received indication from a first
2 module of a first event of interest includes a criteria related to the first event, and wherein
3 the notifying of the first module of the occurrence of the first event is performed only
4 when the criteria is satisfied by the occurrence of the first event.

1 7. The method of claim 1 including, under the control of the
2 intermediary module:
3 receiving from a second of the state client modules an indication of a
4 condition related to one or more specified state attributes such that the second state client
5 module desires to know when the condition has been satisfied;
6 determining whether any received values for the specified state attributes
7 satisfy the condition; and
8 when it is determined that the condition is satisfied, notifying the second
9 state client module.

1 8. The method of claim 1 including:
2 monitoring activities of a module;
3 detecting an occurrence; and
4 automatically without further intervention by the module,
5 determining based on the monitoring that the detected occurrence
6 would be of interest to the module; and
7 notifying the module of the detected occurrence.

1 9. The method of claim 1 including, under the control of a third of the
2 state client modules:

3 receiving a sent current value from the intermediary module; and
4 presenting information to a user of the third state client module based on
5 the receiving of the value.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein at least some of the state server
2 modules generate values for additional state attributes of a current state other than for the
3 user and send those generated values to the intermediary module, and wherein the
4 intermediary module additionally sends received values for the additional state attributes
5 to state client modules based on requests from those state client modules for the received
6 values.

1 11. A method in a computer for providing information about a current
2 state that is modeled with multiple state attributes, the method comprising:

3 receiving from a module a request related to the modeling of the current
4 state with the multiple state attributes; and

5 without further intervention related to the request by the module,
6 determining that the request cannot currently be satisfied, and
7 indicating to the module that the request cannot currently be satisfied;

8 after the indicating, monitoring at later times to determine whether the
9 request can be satisfied; and

10 when it is determined at one of the later times that the request can
11 currently be satisfied, indicating to the module that the request can be satisfied.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the monitoring includes detecting
2 changes in status of the modeling of the current state.

27. The method of claim 11 wherein the request is from a source module to send a supplied value of a specified state attribute to at least one client, the receiving of the request at a time when no clients that have an interest in receiving values for the specified state attribute are currently available to receive values for the specified state attribute.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein the determining that the request can be satisfied is based on receiving an indication from a client of an interest in receiving at least one value for the specified state attribute.

29. The method of claim 11 wherein the computer has access to various devices, and wherein the request is for access to a device.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein the device is an input device of the computer.

31. The method of claim 29 wherein the device is an output device of the computer.

32. The method of claim 29 wherein the device is a remote device.

33. The method of claim 11 wherein the request is for access to a group of themed attributes.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein the determining that the request can be satisfied is based on one or more sources being executed that are able to supply values for the themed attributes of the group.

1 35. The method of claim 11 wherein the providing of the information
2 about the current state is performed by a characterization module, and wherein the
3 request is for access to other functionality provided by the characterization module.

1 36. The method of claim 35 wherein the other functionality is a specified
2 mediator, and wherein the determining that the request can be satisfied is based on
3 loading of software that when executed will provide mediating for the specified mediator.

1 37. The method of claim 11 wherein the request is to be notified when a
2 specified criteria is satisfied, and wherein the determining that the request cannot
3 currently be satisfied is based on the specified criteria not being satisfied at the time of
4 the receiving of the request.

1 38. The method of claim 37 wherein the indicating to the module that
2 the request cannot currently be satisfied is performed by not notifying the module that the
3 request is satisfied.

1 39. The method of claim 37 wherein the specified criteria is availability
2 or unavailability of a source for supplying values of a specified state attribute.

1 40. The method of claim 37 wherein the specified criteria is availability
2 or unavailability of a specified source for supplying values of at least one state attribute.

1 41. The method of claim 37 wherein the specified criteria is availability
2 or unavailability of a client for receiving values of a specified state attribute.

1 42. The method of claim 37 wherein the specified criteria is availability
2 or unavailability of a specified client for receiving values of at least one state attribute.

1 43. The method of claim 37 wherein the specified criteria is availability
2 or unavailability of a specified device.

1 44. The method of claim 37 wherein the specified criteria is availability
2 or unavailability of specified other functionality.

1 45. The method of claim 37 wherein a module performing the method
2 provides alternatives for at least one type of behavior, and wherein the specified criteria is
3 a change in a value for at least one of the types of behavior.

1 46. The method of claim 37 wherein the specified criteria is a change in
2 a value of a specified state attribute.

1 47. The method of claim 37 wherein the request includes an indication
2 of a number of times that the satisfaction of the specified criteria is to occur.

1 48. The method of claim 11 wherein the state attributes represent
2 information about a user of the computer.

1 49. The method of claim 48 wherein the represented information reflects
2 a modeled mental state of the user.

1 50. The method of claim 11 wherein the state attributes represent
2 information about the computer.

1 51. The method of claim 11 wherein the state attributes represent
2 information about a physical environment.

1 52. The method of claim 11 wherein the state attributes represent
2 information about a cyber-environment of a user of the computer.

1 53. The method of claim 11 wherein the state attributes represent current
2 predictions about a future state.

1 54. The method of claim 11 wherein receiving of a state attribute value
2 by the module prompts the module to present information to a user of the module.

1 55. The method of claim 11 wherein receiving of the indication that the
2 request can be satisfied prompts the module to present information to a user of the
3 module.

1 56. A computer-readable medium whose contents when executed cause a
2 computing device to provide information about a current state that is represented with
3 multiple attributes, by:

4 receiving from a module a request related to the modeling of the current
5 state with the multiple attributes; and

6 without further input from the module related to the request,
7 indicating to the module a determination that the request cannot
8 currently be satisfied;

9 after the indicating, monitoring to determine whether the request can
10 be satisfied; and

11 when it is determined that the request can currently be satisfied,
12 indicating to the module that the request can be satisfied.

1 57. The computer-readable medium of claim 56 wherein the computer-
2 readable medium is a memory of the computing device.

1 58. A computing device for providing information about a current state
 2 that is represented with multiple attributes, comprising:

3 an attribute request receiver component that is capable of receiving from a
 4 module a request related to the modeling of the current state with the multiple state
 5 attributes; and

6 an attribute request satisfier component that is capable of, without further
 7 input from the module related to the request, indicating to the module a determination
 8 that the request cannot currently be satisfied, automatically monitoring to determine
 9 whether the request can be satisfied after the indicating, and indicating to the module that
 10 the request can be satisfied after it is determined that the request can currently be
 11 satisfied.

1 59. The computing device of claim 58 wherein the attribute request
 2 receiver component and the attribute request satisfier component are part of an
 3 intermediary module executing in memory.

1 60. The computing device of claim 58 further comprising multiple
 2 sources and multiple clients executing in the memory.

1 61. A computing device for providing information about a current state
 2 that is represented with multiple attributes, comprising:

3 means for receiving from a module a request related to the modeling of the
 4 current state with the multiple state attributes; and

5 means for, without further input from the module related to the request,
 6 indicating to the module a determination that the request cannot currently be satisfied,
 7 automatically monitoring to determine whether the request can be satisfied after the
 8 indicating, and indicating to the module that the request can be satisfied after it is
 9 determined that the request can currently be satisfied.

receiving from a first client an indication of an interest in receiving
notification when a specified event that is related to at least one of the context attributes
occurs;

6 monitoring information related to the at least one context attributes for an
7 indication of an occurrence of the specified event; and

8 when the monitoring detects an indication of the occurrence of the specified
9 event, notifying the first client of the occurrence.

63. The method of claim 62 wherein the context attributes represent information about a user of the portable computer.

1 64. The method of claim 62 wherein the context that is represented is a
2 current context.

1 65. The method of claim 62 including:

receiving from the first client an indication of a condition related to a value
of one of the context attributes such that the first client desires to know when the
condition has been satisfied;

5 monitoring changes in the value of the one context attribute to determine
6 whether the condition is satisfied; and

7 when it is determined that the condition is satisfied, notifying the first client
8 that the condition is satisfied.

66. The method of claim 62 wherein the specified event is availability of
a source for supplying values of a specified context attribute.

8 of notifying the first client of the occurrence after the monitoring detects an indication of
9 the occurrence of the specified event.

1 72. A method in a computer for providing information about a state that
2 is modeled with multiple state attributes, comprising:
3 monitoring activities of a module related to at least one of the state
4 attributes; and
5 automatically and without other input from the module,
6 determining based on the monitoring an event whose occurrence is of
7 interest to the module;
8 monitoring information related to state attributes for an indication of
9 an occurrence of the event; and
10 when the monitoring detects an indication of the occurrence of the
11 event, notifying the module of the occurrence.

1 73. The method of claim 72 wherein the monitored activities of the
2 module include supplying of values of state attributes to others or receiving of values of
3 state attributes from others, and wherein the determined event is related to availability of
4 a value of at least one state attribute.

1 74. The method of claim 72 wherein the event is availability of a source
2 for supplying values of a first state attribute.

1 75. The method of claim 72 wherein the state attributes represent
2 information about a user of the computer.

1 76. A computer-implemented method for providing information about a
2 current state that is modeled with multiple state attributes, the method comprising:
3 receiving an indication of an event that is related to at least one of the state
4 attributes;

5 determining that an occurrence of the event is of interest if criteria related
6 to the event are satisfied by the occurrence;

7 sending to an intermediary module an indication of the event and of the
8 criteria;

9 after an occurrence of the event that satisfies the criteria, receiving from the
10 intermediary module a notification of the occurrence; and

11 performing processing based on the received notification.

1 77. The method of claim 76 wherein the processing includes presenting
2 information to a user.

1 78. The method of claim 76 wherein the state attributes represent
2 information about a user of the computer.

1 79. The method of claim 76 including:
2 sending to the intermediary module an indication of a condition related to a
3 value of at least one of the state attributes; and
4 receiving an indication from the intermediary module that the condition is
5 satisfied.

1 80. A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computing
2 device to provide information about a current state that is modeled with multiple state
3 attributes, by:

4 determining that an occurrence of an event is of interest if criteria related to
5 the event are satisfied by the occurrence, the event being related to at least one of the
6 state attributes;

7 sending to an intermediary module an indication of the event and of the
8 criteria;

9 after an occurrence of the event that satisfies the criteria, receiving from the
10 intermediary module a notification of the occurrence; and

11 performing processing based on the received notification.

1 81. A computing device for providing information about a current state
2 that is modeled with multiple state attributes, comprising:

3 a first module capable of determining that an occurrence of an event is of
4 interest if criteria related to the event are satisfied by the occurrence, the event being
5 related to at least one of the state attributes, and of sending to an intermediary module an
6 indication of the event and of the criteria; and

7 a second module capable of, after an occurrence of the event that satisfies
8 the criteria, receiving from the intermediary module a notification of the occurrence and
9 performing processing based on the received notification.